



**Testimony
Bart Russell
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 12, 2012**

RE: SUPPORT – HB-5286, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETURN OF STOLEN PROPERTY.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports HB-5286 which amends the state-mandated value of stolen property that must be stored by local police officials from \$250 to \$500.

The increase in the threshold is long overdue and will provide towns with some relief from the mandate. Logging in, inventorying and storing stolen property can be time-consuming and a drain on already scarce resources. It would also allow individuals to recover their stolen property more quickly. Under the current threshold, certain cell phones and devices such as I Pads may be required to be stored rather than returned quickly to victims, who are then unable to access and safeguard important data.

Adjusting the threshold will help reduce municipal costs associated with storing stolen property. COST therefore urges your support.